

JPRS-TEP-84-011

16 April 1984

Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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16 April 1984

WORLDWIDE REPORT EPIDEMIOLOGY

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HEALTH MINISTER DISCUSSES ROLE OF FOREIGN DOCTORS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 22 Feb 84 p 1

[Excerpt] The recruitment of overseas doctors to fill all of the openings in the National Health Service (NHS) is still a possibility that has not been discarded, says Minister of Health, Senator O'Brien Trotman.

The Health Minister yesterday signed an agreement with the United States Government for improving the services at the Casualty department of the Queen Casualty Hospital (QEH). He said it was hoped that some 48 000 of the 72 000 patients who pass through the Casualty department annually will soon be re-directed to other facilities for minor care.

These facilities, he noted, included the new Ladymeade Polyclinic and the General Practitioner (GP) Service of the NHS. Yet, whether these facilities will have the local man-power to cope with the added patients, the Minister said, depends on the local doctors themselves.

"We will have to wait and see how many doctors we have for the GP service, how many are going to stay in the public service and if need be, if we have to recruit any from overseas. So that will be dependent upon negotiations with the doctors now going on for the NHS.

The recruitment of overseas doctors for the NHS has been the source of aggravation among local practitioners, whose concern lies with a drop in the quality of care Barbadians would receive if such a move were to be implemented.

The NHS is expected to come on stream fully by mid-year.

[Editor's Note: On 23 February 1984, page 1, the BARBADOS ADVOCATE carried the following clarification, under the headline 'All Foreign Doctors' Not for NHS: "Foreign doctors will NOT be brought into Barbados to fill ALL of the openings in the National Health Service (NHS) as was incorrectly stated in yesterday's edition of the Barbados Advocate. In a lead story headlined 'Foreign doctors for NHS likely' and attributed to Health Minister Senator O'Brien Trotman, it was suggested that the possibility still existed that foreign doctors might be recruited to fill ALL openings in the NHS. However, Ministry of Health Officials have stated that this was contrary to the Ministry's position and added that when reference was made to foreign doctors, it was in connection with any vacancies that might arise at the polyclinics."]

CSO: 5400/7544

BRIEFS

HEALTH TEAMS--Representatives of the Corozal public and private sectors have completed a four-day workshop sponsored by the Ministry of Health and CARICOM. The workshop was opened Monday by Corozal Town Mayor, Mr Gabriel Hoare. The workshop gave the participants an opportunity share views on the best and most efficient ways to improve community work, especially in the field of health. The workshop also organized a District health team, the fifth of its kind in the country. Health teams are now functioning in the Cayo, Orange Walk, Stann Creek and Toledo districts. CARICOM Health Management expert Mr George Rutherford conducted the workshop. [Text] [Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 11 Mar 84 p 4]

DENGUE FEVER--BELIZE CITY, Fri. March 16 The PUP government publication BELIZE TRIBUNE reported in today's edition that there is an outbreak of the contagious disease dengue fever in Belize. Its symptoms are aching joints, fever, vomiting, headache, and rashes, and persons who suspect they have the disease are advised not to take aspirins, according to the TRIBUNE. [Text] [Belize City AMANDALA in English 16 Mar 84 p 1]

CSO: 5400/7548

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

MALARIA IN RONDONIA, PARA--Participants in a malaria meeting underway in Belem have reported that there were 14,000 cases of malaria just in Rondonia state last year, adding that mines in Para and Rondonia states were the main centers of infection since the discovery of gold deposits in 1981. [Summary] [PY311623 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Mar 84]

CSO: 5400/2052

BRUNEI

BRIEFS

CONJUNCTIVITIS EPIDEMIC--Bandar Seri Begawan--A "red eye" epidemic is sweeping Brunei once more. On Monday 100 patients suffering from sore eyes were treated at the eye clinic of the Raja Isteri Anak Saleha General Hospital. This is the third outbreak in recent years. A few cases have also been reported in Tutong and Temburong midweek but there were no reports from Kuala Belait. Senior eye specialist Pehin Dato Dr N. Joshi warned that anybody suffering from sore eyes should seek medical help. If the condition, a form of virus-spread conjunctivitis, goes untreated, vision may be impaired. The Medical and Health Department issued leaflets this week advising the public on how to avoid contracting or spreading the disease. Sharing towels should be avoided and strict hygiene observed. [Text] [Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 4 Feb 84 p 40]

CSO: 5400/4398

DENMARK

BRIEFS

INCREASE IN MENINGITIS TYPE C CASES--Three additional cases of meningitis have been discovered in Randers, and one case in which there is the slightest suspicion of meningitis. The three new cases bring the total up to 11 cases of type C meningitis since October, and that is characterized by the State Serum Institute as unusually high. Two cases have occurred in infants, eight in young people between the ages of 14 and 14, and a single instance in a 22-year-old. The State Serum Institute is appealing to parents and physicians to be aware of the disease, for example, fever, so that possible patients are treated quickly. It is also wise to consult a physician if one is the slightest in doubt. Should two or more cases occur in the same institution, rifampicin will be given in the affected institution. Otherwise, preventive medication will be given to members of the patient's households, but immunity to the medication builds up quickly. [Text] [Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 22 Jan 84 p 7] 12578

CSO: 5400/2515

ANTI-MALARIA WORK, HOSPITAL CAPACITIES NOTED

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 22 Feb 84 pp 1, 4

[Text] To put into practice the slogan that says, "Make prophylaxis the top priority and medical care as important," medical cadres and medical state employees of various hospitals and public health disease prevention departments around the country in 1983 boosted their high revolutionary spirit in caring for the sick and actively bringing under control malaria in one area after another.

During that period, the Ministry of Public Health joined with different provinces in sending medical cadres of the anti-malaria division down to basic production areas to collect data, solve problems, promote disease prevention, and cooperate with the population to control malaria in 635 cases. While active in the basic production areas, they disseminated basic rules of hygiene to the population on 800 occasions, with 126,000 attending. They sprayed insecticides to kill mosquitoes in 106,236 houses; distributed 863,000 tablets and 36,000 capsules of preventive and anti-parasite medicines; gave blood tests to check for malaria to almost 100,000 people; vaccinated 354,500 people; collected research data on clean water; built hand water pumps; dug new open pit wells at 23 sites and restored old ones at 152 sites; dug 112 concrete wells; performed medical checkups at various hospitals and distributed medicine to nearly 40,000 people; performed various diagnostic tests on almost 100,000 people; performed major and minor surgery on almost 10,000 people; conducted prenatal checks on 20,000 pregnant women; assisted almost 10,000 women in childbirth; encouraged people to donate blood to save the lives of the sick and got 874 liters of blood; opened conferences all over the country to research the regulations for controlling the distribution of medicine and introduced 3 kinds of indigenous medicines for use with digestive system, malaria and respiratory system [illnesses]. They traveled to distribute medicine and various medical equipment, allocated and sent in to the areas that use 70 percent of all medical stocks; searched for and found 400 kinds of plants with medicinal properties in Luang Prabang Province, Vientiane and Champassak and used them for compounding 20 kinds of medicine; successfully analyzed them chemically and used them in producing a number of different preventive medicines; compiled a 15 chapter manual on 100 kinds of indigenous medicines; completed training one medical cadre class with 40 trainees in indigenous medicines; completed training two short term public health classes with 60 trainees all together. At present, in the entire

country there are four specialty hospitals with 600 beds; 14 provincial or branch hospitals with 2,154 beds; 102 district hospitals with 3,647 beds; 491 canton hospitals, village public health stations and various working units, each with 3-7 beds. In addition, there are also hospitals under construction, such as a 150 bed Central Party Committee hospital; a 60 bed hospital in Xieng Khouang Province; a 70 bed hospital in Attapeu Province; and a 50 bed hospital in Sayaboury Province.

Now these medical cadres and state employees are competing in expanding the spirit of the 5th Resolution of the 3rd Session of the Central Party. They are fully determined to do their work.

12587

CSO: 5400/4387

BRIEFS

KHONG DISTRICT MALARIA WORK--In order to completely realize the Department of Public Health's projected plan for eliminating malaria at the provincial and district levels, the Department of Public Health of Champassak in the 4th quarter of 1983 dispatched cadres of its malaria section down to basic production areas to actively perform their work successfully. During the more than 2 months of actively discharging their tasks, they were able to accomplish the following: finish collecting census statistics for 7 cantons with 65 villages; open 59 converences in various locations for disseminating information about the work of the department's public health disease prevention and anti-malaria section, with 6,191 attendees altogether, of which 1,485 were males. Blood tests were performed, with 648 carriers of malaria, 44 active cases, and 181 people with swollen glands found. They performed medical examinations and distributed medicine to many sick people, and gave 900 shots and many kinds of medication. According to what the anti-malaria section authorities stated to reporters, their anti-malaria work at this time has achieved good results at each step because their superiors take an interest in guiding and assisting every aspect of work, including [providing] cars and motor boats for transportation; in addition, provincial authorities also gave 145 litres of oil. Each level of administration and organization gives assistance in all aspects. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 13 Jan 84 pp A7, 8]

12587

CSO: 5400/4387

'MYSTERY VIRUS' KILLS EIGHT PERSONS IN TWO WEEKS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Fabian Dawson]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sat--The medical authorities in the country have been placed on alert after the discovery of a mystery virus which has claimed eight lives over the past two weeks.

The virus, according to medical sources, paralyses the body's nervous system, making the victim clinically dead and culminates in a massive heart attack.

Six of the victims died at the University Hospital in Petaling Jaya, one in the Assunta Hospital and the other in the Penang General Hospital.

The latest victim was Mr T. Sharvanandan, 44, an accountant with the National Electricity Board who died on Thursday following a heart attack at the Asunta Hospital.

Mrs Sharvanandan said her husband was warded with high temperature on Wednesday after which he lapsed into a coma and died without regaining consciousness.

She said the doctors who attended to him told her that he had a viral infection.

Medical authorities are baffled as to what is triggering off the virus attack and are conferring with their Singapore counterparts who are said to have a vaccine to counter the infection.

Medical sources said the virus strikes when a person's body resistance is weak and kills the nervous system.

Coma

The virus then multiplies rapidly in the body and the victim lapses into a coma and becomes clinically dead.

Some of those who died as a result of the virus were placed on life-supporting systems for periods ranging from 24 to 48 hours after which the system was taken off.

Medical sources said that doctors test the patients' nervous system by dropping hot water into the ears.

If there is no response, it means the nervous system has been damaged irreversibly.

However, they said there was no epidemic and that the virus only attacks those with a weak body defence system.

They advised those having fluctuating temperatures and severe colds to seek medical treatment immediately.

CSO: 5400/4399

CASE OF 'MYSTERIOUS VIRUS' SOLVED

Kuching THE BORNEO POST in English 24 Feb 84 p 2

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs.— The Health Ministry has solved the case of the mysterious virus said to have killed eight people recently and revealed it to be no mystery at all.

Investigation by officials of the ministry found that the deaths allegedly attributed to the mysterious killer virus were in fact due to definite known causes.

The director-general of health, Datuk Dr Abdul Khalid Sahan, told Bernama today that the investigation revealed that there was no truth in the report on the virus which appeared in the press on Feb. 12.

He said the ministry conducted the investigation following the report claiming that a mystery virus had accounted for six deaths at the University Hospital and one

death each at the Assunta Hospital and the Pulau Pinang General Hospital.

Officials of the ministry met authorities of the three hospitals to look into the allegation. The ministry also examined the list of causes of deaths that had occurred at the University Hospital and the Pulau Pinang General Hospital over a period of three weeks prior to the publication of the report.

The ministry also examined the case notes of a patient alleged to have died of the mysterious viral infection at the Assunta Hospital on Feb. 9.

Datuk Khalid said the ministry found that the cause of death was subacute bacterial endocarditis, a disease associated with the heart.

He said that during the three-week period, there had been 62 deaths at the University Hospital, all due to definite known causes.

A check of all case notes of patients who had died of acute myocardial infarction (death of tissue) showed that none had symptoms the report claimed were associated with the mysterious killer disease.

The 71 deaths at the Pulau Pinang General Hospital during the period were also due to definite known causes.

Datuk Khalid said the press report had stirred up unnecessary alarm among the public and this could have been avoided if the matter had first been checked with the Health Ministry. —Bernama

CSO: 5400/4401

STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN OPENS AGAINST AEDES MOSQUITO IN SARAWAK

Kuching THE BORNEO POST in English 15 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Kuching, Tues--The State Government has declared a "total war" against aedes mosquitoes.

Yesterday, an emergency meeting of the Residents of all Divisions, Medical personnel and local authorities' representatives was summoned by State Secretary Datuk Amar Abang Haji Yusuf Puteh, following reports of the alarming increase in the number of dengue victims.

In Kuching alone, the total number of dengue cases for January this year has been recorded at 47, already an epidemic level.

The grand total for the whole state up to yesterday since 1983 was 616 cases, half of which were reported here.

Fortunately, however, only six deaths were reportedly caused by the dengue haemorrhagic fever.

Datuk Amar Yusuf directed the Divisional Action Committees (DACs) in all the Divisions to oversee and provide every assistance to the "war council" (a task force) set up under the Director of Medical Services with the secretaries of local councils, district officers, medical personnel, police, army and mass media as members.

In Kuching, the town has now been zoned into 15 target areas: Tabuan, Pending, Chawan, Petanak, Kenyalang, Ellis Road, Satok, Sungei Maong, Hui Sin Garden, Kuching Central, Industrial Estate, Seng Goon Garden, Capitol Garden, Petra Jaya and Matang.

A total of 22 teams of foggers with their newly purchased machines will "attack" the aedes "strongholds" beginning tomorrow.

As the aedes life-cycle is between seven to ten days, there will be a repeat fogging within the period.

Unlike previously, however, fogging will now be carried out around the compounds and the surroundings of homes only.

But house-owners are requested to open their doors and windows to allow particles from the smog to drift into their homes.

The public are advised not to be unduly worried because the dosage from the smog will not be harmful to human beings.

Datuk Amar Yusuf said after the meeting that following this operation, another task force consisting mainly of the same personnel would implement the second strategy, search and destroy campaign, of the battle against the dengue-carriers.

He said that the campaign would cover practically every inch of the State Capital, including the premises of the government departments.

He said that the Director of Medical Services had been empowered to enforce the Destruction of Disease Bearing Insect Act 1975 and legally prosecute offenders under this legislation.

He said his office would sanction all actions, particularly against government departments, if they were found guilty of the offence.

In the meanwhile, he had issued an immediate warning to the Marine Fisheries, Public Works and Telecoms Departments, which had been reported to him as the worst offenders under this Act.

He said while appreciating the reasons for their keeping old tyres for their respective projects, he expected proper storage to be undertaken.

The State Secretary also advised homeowners particularly housewives to regularly clean and change the water of their flower-vases and add salt to anti-traps weekly as a measure to check the breeding of aedes.

After Kuching, the fogging teams will "invade" Serian from where they would move on to Sibu, which had been reported to have 44 cases during the last one year.

However, in Sibu, only specific areas would be fogged.

The State Secretary, nevertheless, stressed that the Search and Destroy Campaign would be carried out on a permanent basis and that the public should be aware of their legal liabilities should they ignore warnings from health inspectors against "harbouring" breeding places for aedes mosquitoes within or outside their homes.

CSO: 5400/4399

BRIEFS

MORE DENGUE CASES REPORTED--Kuching, Mon--Sixteen more cases of dengue fever were reported in the state today bringing the total number of the cases reported to 142 since the beginning of this year. Thirteen people from here were admitted to the Sarawak General Hospital. The three other cases reported are a 23-year-old man from Brighton Road, a 51-year-old woman from Kampung Skioh, Bau, and a 33-year old woman from Param Road, Sibu.--Bernama [Text] [Kuching THE BORNEO POST in English 21 Feb 84 p 1]

DENGUE CASES IN SARAWAK--KUCHING, Sat.--A suspected dengue fever case was reported today, bringing the total number of such cases reported in Sarawak this year to 301. A spokesman from the state Medical and Health Services Department said today the latest victim was a 23-year-old woman from Cloud Estate here. She has been admitted to the Sarawak General Hospital. The spokesman also said that 11 cases had been confirmed. No deaths have been reported so far. [Text] [Kuching THE BORNEO POST in English 11 Mar 84 p 3]

CSO: 5400/4403

BRIEFS

NATIONAL POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGN--As the national polio vaccination campaign began yesterday, more than 80,000 helpers are participating under the coordination of the Secretariat of Health and Assistance. It is hoped that 8.5 million children will have been immunized by the 27th of this month. At a press conference, Juan Garza Ramos, general manager of Biologicals and Reagents of the Secretariat of Health and Assistance, again called on parents to bring their children aged 2 to 35 months to any health center, clinic or hospital of the official institutions for vaccination. The helpers participating in the national campaign are visiting homes and covering localities with a population larger than 25,000 throughout the country, for it is a matter of seeing to it that the vaccine reaches the most remote places of the republic. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 24 Jan 84 p 27-A] 9746

SINALOA LEPROSY CASES--Mazatlan, Sinaloa, 31 Jan--Approximately 305 cases of leprosy were detected among the adolescent population in the southern part of the locality, reported Roberto Reyes Castro, director of the health center of this city. He added that the greatest numbers of cases were found in the municipalities of Mazatlan and Escuinapa, with 174 and 170, respectively. The health brigades, he added, also verified 35 cases of leprosy in Rosario, 24 in San Ignacio and 14 in Concordia. He indicated that most of the patients are under control with dermatological treatments, since most of the cases are benign. He stated that 202 cases of leprosy correspond to males and 103 to females, and that 197 of the patients are 15 to 18 years of age. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 1 Feb 84 p 32-A] 9746

CSO: 5400/2050

BRIEFS

STRANGE SKIN DISEASE--Five out of every 10 accused persons on criminal charges taken from the Kirikiri Maximum Security prisons to Ikeja High Court are plagued by a strange skin disease. The disease, according to an investigation, afflicted mainly those Kirikiri inmates who have stayed long in custody. A NAN correspondent at the court reported yesterday that the suspects, who had scars and wounds on their skins, were kept away from new detainees, in courtrooms and cells. Lawyers and visitors to the court interviewed said they kept a good distance from the victims to avoid infection. A prison officer at Kirikiri, who chose to be anonymous, said that no meaningful effort had been made to stop the skin trouble from spreading. [Text] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 3 Feb 84 p 1]

CSO: 5400/102

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC REPORTED IN CENTRAL PROVINCE

Port Moresby PAPUA NEW GUINEA POST COURIER in English 27 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] Three people are confirmed dead following an influenza epidemic in the Efogi area of Central Province.

A medical team from Port Moresby was flown into Efogi by helicopter last Saturday--a day after the outbreak was reported.

Another medical team moved into Hailogo village from the nearest health centre at Efogi.

An attempt yesterday by the Central Province Health Department to send two more officers failed when the helicopter was used to take Postal and Telecommunications officials to Kerema, Gulf Province, acting departmental secretary, Mr Orere Tipo said.

"The two men had extra medical supplies and rations and went to catch the helicopter flight at about 7 am, but the pilot decided to fly the PTC group to Kerema. "This is really disgusting" Mr Tipo said.

"The medical patrol has to treat patients and evacuate others to the Efogi health centre which is two hours walk away. The people affected by the epidemic are more important."

He said there had been no new reports on the effects of the epidemic due to isolation of the area.

"I was trying to get into the area myself to get first-hand information, assess the situation and then return with the pilot the same day," Mr Tipo said.

CSO: 5400/4392

'KILLER FEVER' CARRIED BY FLEAS, LICE HITS XIAN

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 28 Feb 84 p 7

[Text]

Peking, Feb 27.

A killer fever carried by fleas or lice on rats has afflicted parts of the ancient Chinese capital of Xian, foreign residents and travellers reported today.

Xian, one of the planned stops for US President Ronald Reagan when he visits China in April, is about 900 km southwest of Peking.

The foreigners said they had been warned by health officials to avoid some areas of the city and suburbs where the fever is believed to be serious.

One said that on a recent bicycle ride there he saw at least eight funeral ceremonies and many homes with white bunting draped outside, a traditional sign that a relative has died.

The illness was described as haemorrhage fever, known in Chinese as *chu xue re*. It is characterised by high fever, aching joints and haemorrhaging of blood vessels. It is transmitted by fleas or lice that live on the skins of rats.

One Westerner, who works as an English teacher at a Xian school, said he knew of at least two people who said relatives had died from the fever.

A Xian municipal Government official, reached by telephone from Peking, confirmed there were cases of haemorrhage fever in the city but denied it was widespread.

US Embassy sources said they had heard rumours of an unspecified illness in Xian and asked the Chinese Government about them, but received a categorical denial.

The Chinese press has reported no major outbreaks of illness in Xian.

But the Government has historically seldom disclosed incidents of serious illness as they happen. Some illnesses are never reported.

PROGRESS IN ENDEMIC DISEASE CONTROL REPORTED

Statistics on Disease Control

OW271948 Beijing XINHUA in English 1445 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Shenyang, March 27 (XINHUA) -- China has made considerable progress in the prevention and treatment of endemic diseases over the past two years.

Endemic goiter has been brought under control in the past few years in highly affected areas in Shaanxi, Heilongjiang, Liaoning, Hebei and Jilin Provinces and Tianjin Municipality, according to the Leading Group on the Control of Endemic Diseases of the Communist Party Central Committee based here. The work was commended at a national meeting yesterday, which was sponsored by the group. Head of the group is Li Desheng, member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee.

In Heilongjiang Province, 877 out of 923 affected townships have now brought the disease under control. The incidence rate of the province has declined from 8.71 percent in 1978 to the present 1.97 percent.

More than one million patients across the nation have been cured.

Serious goiter sufferers are mentally retarded, and some cannot even take care of themselves. The Chinese Government has taken effective measures including supplying people in affected areas with iodized salt and iodine injections for women of child-bearing age. Meanwhile, water towers have been built and pipes laid to provide clean drinking water.

Conditions of endemic fluorine poisoning in the northern and in some parts of southern China have been investigated thoroughly over the past two years. 5.35 million people are now free from water with a high fluorine content, which was treated by using natural zeolite.

Keshan Disease, once rampant, has not been prevalent for 12 successive years; Chinese scientists have also found the basic cause of the Kaschin-Beck Diseases to be the deficiency of selenium.

The Chinese Government has paid great attention to the treatment and prevention of endemic diseases. A national group and local groups on control of endemic diseases have been set up to promote the work. The Provinces of Gansu, Shaanxi, Jilin, Heilongjiang and Liaoning have all put the work on their agenda. Publicity and scientific research on prevention and treatment have also been intensified.

A commentary in today's PEOPLE'S DAILY urges continued efforts, as endemic diseases are still widely prevalent in some areas. There are still 36 million people suffering from endemic diseases, the majority of whom live in rural areas. "We must not take the prevention and treatment of endemic diseases lightly," the commentator says.

Li Desheng at Meeting

OW280351 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 1444 GMT 27 Mar 84

[By reporter Wang Ke]

[Text] Shenyang, 27 Mar (XINHUA) -- At an enlarged meeting of the Leading Group on the Control of Endemic Diseases which concluded here yesterday, Li Desheng, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the aforementioned group, stressed: In the course of carrying out party rectification, it is necessary to solve the problem of bureaucracy reflected in lack of sense of responsibility to the party and the people. Leading comrades at all levels must do a really good job in preventing and treating local endemic diseases in the spirit of carrying out party rectification and self-remolding at the same time, and of remolding oneself prior to party rectification; they must carry out the work in this regard in a down-to-earth manner. This is of great significance in further improving relations between the party and the masses and enhancing the party's prestige.

Li Desheng said: Preventing and treating local endemic diseases is a major task which the party Central Committee has always been concerned with and an important part of developing socialist spiritual civilization. Whether we can carry out our work well in this respect affects directly the health of several hundred million people, the quality of the population, and the great cause of developing the four modernizations for many, many years to come.

Li Desheng said: The party and the government attach great importance to the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases and have issued many directives in this regard. Not long ago, the party Central Committee approved a plan to readjust the members of the Leading Group for the Control of Endemic Diseases and further strengthen the leadership over the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases. Li Desheng proposed that the various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions each select one district heavily afflicted with a local endemic disease as a center for summing up experience and carrying out well the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases.

Li Desheng pointed out: By extensively arousing the masses and linking the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases with that of eliminating poverty and striving to become well-to-do, we will be successful in carrying out the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases. This is the basic principle that we must follow closely.

He stressed: As far as the whole nation is concerned, in the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases, emphasis must be placed on the greater northwest area, the greater southwest area and on districts where many older and younger people live, as well as on remote, hilly, and poverty-stricken localities.

Li Desheng also pointed out: In doing the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases, it is essential to bring into full play the role of intellectuals,

to exert continuous efforts to wipe out the pernicious influence of "left" trends, to earnestly check how the policy on intellectuals is being implemented, and to solve problems so as to whip up the enthusiasm of intellectuals in doing the work of preventing and treating local endemic diseases.

Attending the meeting were members of the Leading Group for the Control of Endemic Diseases under the CPC Central Committee; responsible persons of 15 ministries, commissions and state organs; leading comrades in charge of leading groups for the prevention and treatment of local endemic diseases under the party committees of various provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions; and representatives of some districts stricken by local endemic diseases, totaling more than 200 people.

The meeting was held from 20 to 26 March.

CSO: 5400/4134

SNAIL FEVER PREVENTION MEETING ENDS

OW201359 Nanchang Jiangxi Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Jiangxi provincial meeting on snail fever prevention closed in Jiujiang on [date omitted] March. The participants to the meeting included members of the provincial group for leading snail fever prevention work; leading cadres in charge of snail fever prevention work in the prefectures, cities, counties and districts where snail fever is epidemic; directors of the snail fever prevention offices in those prefectures, cities, counties and districts; and responsible persons of public health, agriculture and water conservancy departments or bureaus of some prefectures, cities and counties.

The meeting summed up the achievements in 1983 in preventing snail fever and arranged snail fever prevention tasks for 1984. Liu Bin, head of the provincial group for leading snail fever prevention work and vice governor of Jiangxi, presided over the meeting and made a summing-up speech.

Liu Bin said: Snail fever is a big problem left over from the old society. It does serious harm to the people's health. In our province, people in 34 counties and cities have been adversely affected by it. Since liberation, the party Central Committee has shown concern about the trouble, led people in the affected areas in waging repeated struggles and doing arduous work, and spent hundreds of millions of yuan on its prevention. As a result, we have made tremendous achievements. To date, snail fever has been completely wiped out in 9 counties and cities, including Yijiang County, and basically wiped out in 13 counties and cities in this province.

CSO: 5400/4134

SURVEY ON DAPSONE RESISTANT LEPROSY IN JIANGSU REPORTED

Beijing ZHONGGUO YIXUE KEXUEYUAN XUEBAO [ACTA ACADEMIAE MEDICINAE SINICAE] in Chinese No 1, 15 Feb 84 pp 60-61

[Article by Li Wenzhong [3621 2429 1813], CAMS Institute of Dermatology, et al: "Survey on Prevalence Rate of Dapsone Resistant Leprosy in Yangzhou District"]

[Summary] Two thousand, one hundred and one cases of secondary dapsone resistant leprosy were investigated in Yangzhou District, Jiangsu Province, 56.3 percent being multibacillary leprosy. Since 1974, in a series of 1,095 cases of leprosy, 36 had been found to be dapsone resistant, 28 being proved with mouse foot-pad test and with clinical trials, giving a prevalence rate of 7 percent since 17 of 242 cases of leprosy were found to be dapsone resistant. Six cases of untreated BL leprosy were selected for the investigation of primary dapsone resistant leprosy. In two of them, the organism was able to multiply in mice treated with dapsone, one showing high and the other low resistance.

CSO: 5400/4129

RESULTS OF FIELD TRIALS OF LIVE POLIOVIRUS VACCINE REPORTED

Beijing ZHONGGUO YIXUE KEXUEYUAN XUEBAO [ACTA ACADEMIAE MEDICINAE SINICAE] in Chinese No 6, Dec 83 pp 374-377

[Article by Chen Tongqiu [7115 4827 3808], Li Changzun [2621 2490 6690] et al. of the Kunming Institute of Medical Biology: "Studies on New Attenuated Strains of Type I Live Poliovirus Vaccine; Investigation in a Series of Field Trials With 'Zhong I₃' Strain"]

[Summary] The results of investigation of three field trials with Zhong I₃ strain of type I live poliovaccine were reported. In a total of 183,609 children fed with Zhong I₃ strain vaccine, no side effect or vaccine associated reaction was noticed, even in those having close contact with them. The conversion rate of neutralizing antibody of 283 children tested was 84.6 percent and the 4-fold antibody rise rate was 82 percent. The isolation rate of homotypic virus was 73.3 percent. The genetic stability of sabin LSc, 2ab and I₃ strains after passing through human alimentary tracts was studied comparatively and showed the same T,d characters and the neuro-virulence test of both strains showed a slightly elevated virulence without significant difference.

CSO: 5400/4131

DAVAO ORIENTAL TRYS FOCAL SPRAY AGAINST MALARIA

Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 7 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] MATI, Davao Oriental--The Malaria Eradication Team recently announced its new policy as adopting the "self-reliance" concept in its operation on malaria control.

Polancos, head of a seven-man team of the Malaria unit No. 29 assigned in this province told the Office of the Media Affairs that is unit is now controlling the dreaded sickness through "focal spray".

He said "focal spray" is distinct from that of a "residual spray" which his unit has been doing before.

Residual spray, he explained, is a process of continuous spraying, while the focal spray is one that of spraying only in a particular locality when there is a need for it.

The overall control, he said, is now left to the residents themselves who are made aware of their responsibility to help control the disease through the concept of "self-reliance".

Polances said malaria claimed several tens of thousands of human lives during the last World War. He said, it is being carried by the female of the anophelis mosquito that sucks the human blood and carries the malaria germ to another human victim.

CSO: 5400/4402

COOPERATIVE EFFORT UNDER WAY TO REDUCE INCIDENCE OF WHIPWORM

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 25 Feb 84 p 5

[Text] A research project aimed at reducing whipworm [trichuris] in the villages of Anse-La-Raye and Gros Islet is now underway.

The fieldwork is being carried out by Miss Donaldene Thompson, a post-graduate student in the Zoology Department of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, U.W.I. Jamaica. Other persons involved in the research which is funded by the Wellcome Trust, are Dr. Edward Cooper, Director of the St. Lucia-based UWI Primary Health Care Centre and Dr. D. A. P. Bundy of the Department of Zoology, UWI, Jamaica.

The three researchers have shown that the whipworm, which is almost invisible and hard to control and may do more harm than fat roundworms, was found in alarming proportions in the two villages.

The first phase of this new research project involves counting the numbers of adult whipworms in people of different ages in Anse-La-Raye and also in Gros Islet. To do this, all the stool must be collected for three days after giving tablets to dislodge the worms.

"This is a difficult business, which requires wholehearted cooperation from the people of the two villages," Dr. Cooper said.

Blood tests are also taken, mainly to show the relationship between the subject's nutrition and the load of worms that he carries. "Each individual, and each village as a whole, however, should benefit in improved health from the project," he said.

The counting of worms in this way should allow a description of unprecedented exactness to be made of the whipworm population of the villages.

The second phase of the study takes place in London, on a computer. A prediction will be made of the best strategy for delivering a lasting blow to the Anse-La-Raye whipworms. In the third and final phase, this strategy will be carried out, while Gros Islet will receive a mass deworming campaign without special targets. Continual counting of worms will show which form of campaign is better--targetted treatment or random mass treatment.

"The whole study is to take three years. The Government of St. Lucia has provided laboratory space at the Primary Health Care Centre on the Morne, and also the approval and the cooperation of the Ministry of Health," Dr. Cooper said.

CSO: 5400/7541

BRIEFS

VENEZUELAN MEDICAL AID--ANOTHER set of medical supplies and equipment was handed over to the Ministry of Health yesterday by the Venezuelan Government. The equipment included a dental chair to be used at the Gros Islet Health Centre and an incubator and electrocardiograph for Victoria Hospital. In addition, the Venezuelan authorities also donated a quantity of medical supplies to be distributed among health centres on the island. A spokesman for the Venezuelan Embassy here told THE VOICE yesterday that the donation is part of that country's ongoing technical assistance programme to St. Lucia. He said that this would soon include training of St. Lucians in the health field. [Text] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 3 Mar 84 p 2]

CS0: 5400/7549

REPORT WARNS OF POSSIBLE WORSENING AIDS EPIDEMIC

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 3 Mar 84 p 8

[Article: "Doctors Fear AIDS Epidemic"]

[Text] A different kind of love week began on Thursday at a dozen places in Sweden. The message of love is combined with information about the risks of sex.

People can be infected by the diseases of the twentieth century. Many of them may be fatal. What is quite serious is the discovery that 100 men in Stockholm are in the initial stages of the often fatal disease AIDS.

A study has shown that more women than were expected suffer from an infection called chlamydia in the reproductive organs.

The love week sponsored by the National Swedish Association for Sexual Information (RFSU) at 12 local chapters all over the country warns that sex can give [blessure d'amour] in the form of serious diseases. Some are fatal and some leave irreparable damage.

Fear of AIDS

The information about the disease AIDS, which is short for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is quite alarming.

Approximately 3,000 people in the United States have been stricken with the disease and approximately 300 people in Europe. Most are homosexual men of which 40 percent have died.

So far five persons in Sweden have been diagnosed as having AIDS.

On Thursday, new and frightening figures were released by the Soder Hospital in Stockholm where 1,000 homosexual men were being examined.

Three hundred of them had some form of a sexual disease that required treatment. One hundred men were sent to the Roslagstull's Hospital suspected of having the initial stages of AIDS.

The figures show that the AIDS situation is much worse than had been known. The National Swedish Welfare Board had minimized the situation earlier. The National Bacteriological Laboratory had warned against this.

"I am both a pessimist and an optimist. Sweden is a couple of years behind the development in the United States. Even in Denmark the experts believed that the AIDS danger was over. Then suddenly there were 20 cases.

"I fear that we may expect an AIDS epidemic in Sweden," Dr Geo von Krogh of Stockholm's Soder Hospital tells TT.

"I am, however, optimistic enough to believe that it will not reach the same dimensions as in the large cities of the United States.

"Also, a two-year study from the United States shows that a number of men who are diagnosed of being in the initial stages of AIDS can be cured," Dr Krogh says.

9538

CSO: 5400/2516

BRIEFS

BILHARZIA DEATHS IN IGUNGA--FORTY-FIVE people in Igunga District, Tabora Region have died of bilharzia, Shihata reported. Quoting a police message from the Tabora Regional Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health headquarters in Dar es Salaam and to the Shinyanga and Singida Regional Development Directors, the agency said from Shinyanga yesterday that six villages in the district had been affected. According to the police message, the disease was affecting women, men and children in the villages, but names of the villages in the district were not mentioned. The reports said the Regional Medical Officer was in Igunga since Thursday to collect more information on the disease and that he was expected to issue a report to his investigations and measures being taken to contain the disease. The medical officer has, according to the police message, requested the ministry to send immediately 1,400 doses of anti-rabies vaccine because the disease has erupted at Ntalikwa Village in the same district. He said although no death had been reported since the rabies outbreak, there were 21 patients undergoing treatment with only 14 doses of the medicine remaining in the region. Efforts by Shihata to get a spokesman of the Tabora Government Hospital to comment on the reported deaths were not successful yesterday. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 25 Mar 84 p 1]

CSO: 5400/117

CONCERN GROWS AS NUMBER OF AIDS VICTIMS INCREASES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Mar 84 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago is undergoing a "serious problem" with the increasing incidence of cases of AIDS (Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome) and a senior government medical specialist has warned about widespread consequences if people were not careful about their sexual habits and activities.

Addressing life underwriters at the Trinidad Hilton yesterday, Dr Bisram Mahabir, head of the Caribbean Medical Centre (CMC) which deals almost exclusively with venereal diseases, told his audience:

"We are concerned about the AIDS situation because for a country with such a small population the number of AIDS cases is one that must be viewed with great concern.

"What is indeed frightening and alarming is that there is no known cure as yet for this unfortunate affliction."

Dr Mahabir spoke against the backdrop of the deaths of 12 male AIDS victims--all homosexuals--and a 13th person lying at a city health institution in severe pain on death's door.

Speaking on "Social Diseases" to the Life Underwriters Association, Dr Mahabir continued:

"For a country our size we must be concerned in the sense that unlike other countries where this is transmitted by other means, it is done here only through sexual contact.

"All the fatal victims were homosexuals.

"Why we must be concerned is that it could be transmitted by bisexual persons--not only through homosexuals--and therein lies the danger."

Why the danger through the bisexuals?

Dr Mahabir: "There is the very real danger of a bisexual passing it (AIDS) to his/her partner. And once this happens we have to worry that the sickness will be passed on to the wider society."

But is there any way of arresting the destructive run of the dreaded ailment?

Dr Mahabir: "I am not addressing a scientific group but nevertheless the fact that I am speaking on this subject demonstrates our concern about the social diseases as they affect your business and, in a wider context, the country."

"What you can do is to embark or continue an education programme to highlight the dangers of sexual promiscuity."

Deep Concern

He said that the practical way of curbing the onslaught of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases was that people should be discriminating about their sexual partners.

Dr Mahabir elaborated:

"Homosexuals should avoid having many 'lovers' and other people should avoid having contact with many other partners as well."

"And those who suspect they had contact with anyone who might be exposed, this risk group should not donate blood to institutions."

"This AIDS is now surfacing here and it is a source of deep concern."

Emphasising there were no specific symptoms (and cure), Dr Mahabir explained there was a group of symptoms doctors looked for.

These included night sweats, prolonged fever, diarrhoea, loss of weight (ten percent within three months); fatigue, cough, and swollen lymph glands.

Although Dr Mahabir gave a rather depressing picture of the AIDS scenario he said that other VD cases were on the decrease.

This he attributed to his department's effective public education programme or that sexual partners were more discerning about their amorous activities.

CSO: 5400/7545

TYPHOID OUTBREAK BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL; NO NEW CASES

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 Mar 84 p 7

[Text]

THE typhoid scare is over. The last casualty is reported to be resting in a fair condition at the Port of Spain General Hospital.

Three months after taking the Paramin Hill, Maraval area by storm, the dreaded disease which claimed 15 victims, and reportedly scared away a high percentage of tourists, was yesterday reported to be "well under control, if not over."

Principal Medical Officer, Epidemiology, Dr Roderick Dougdeen told the EXPRESS yesterday that for the next two years, routine medical checks will be made on the victims.

The victims will undergo medical check-ups every three months for the first year, and every six months for the second year, he said.

He added, too, that surveillance will be maintained in the area.

Thirteen confirmed cases had been identified during the period De-

cember 19, 1983, and January 24, this year. The ages of these victims range from 84 years to two and include seven school children.

In the height of the outbreak, Health Minister, Dr Neville Connell noted that the general pattern of the outbreak was not typical to that associated with a water borne outbreak "but rather suggests person to person spread through the consumption of food, drink etc." The outbreak was confined to Paramin Hill.

He said there was a great possibility of the well used in Paramin being contaminated because the limestone rock in the area does not permit proper filtration.

WASA has been intensifying its efforts to bring pipe-borne water to the area and a continuous chlorination system was recently installed at the Paramin R.C. School to ensure a safe water supply.

BRIEFS

INCREASE IN MEASLES--THE counties of Caroni and St George East have recorded an increase in the number of persons suffering measles this year as compared with the same period last year. According to the National Surveillance Unit of the Ministry of Health, there were 162 cases of measles in county Caroni up to the first week of February as compared to 61 during the same period last year. In county St George East there was 115 cases as compared with none during the same time last year. Throughout the county there had been 440 cases as compared with 255 last year. There was also an increase in the number of gastro-enteritis cases in these two counties. Caroni had 517 cases as compared with 326 cases during the same period last year. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 12 Mar 84 p 3]

ANTI-TICK AID--THE Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production, Kamaluddin Mohammed, announced last week that this country will be receiving technical assistance in the areas of prevention and control of tick-borne disease from the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation. This is in response to a request made by the Veterinary Services Division, Ministry of Agriculture, which is at present focussing its activities on developing a suitable vaccine for the control of anaplasmosis and babesiosis (tick fever). The major objective of the project is to develop suitable laboratory techniques in the diagnosis of anaplasmosis and babesiosis, through the identification of parasite and serological tests for antibody levels of the disease. Anaplasmosis and babesiosis are tick-borne diseases of unquestionable economic importance in Trinidad and Tobago, resulting in morbidity and mortality in cattle, that could significantly limit the production of meat and milk in a nation where self-sufficiency in these productions have been unattained up to the present. [Excerpt] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 12 Mar 84 p 5]

CSO: 5400/7547

SANITARY-PROPHYLACTIC ACHIEVEMENTS NOTED EXTENSIVE PROGRAMS LAUNCHED

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 13 Feb 84 p 4

[Text] VNA--Based on the guideline that disease prevention is the principal task, the public health sector has built a network extending from the central to basic level to satisfactorily carry out sanitation and to prevent and control epidemics and diseases in order to protect the health of the people.

Throughout the country, there are 40 sanitation and epidemic prevention stations at the provincial and municipal levels, 34 malaria, parasite and insect control stations and 450 sanitation and epidemic prevention teams at the district and village levels. Sanitary and prophylactic movements such as the "three cleanlinesses and four eradications" movement and the one calling for the building of three sanitary works including cesspools, water wells and bathrooms have drawn a response from the people and obtained a good result. To date, there are throughout the country 76 districts and cities which have been recognized by the Ministry of Public Health as having completed the "three sanitary and prophylactic works." The provinces of Ha Bac, Nghia Binh, Thanh Hoa, Tien Giang, Bac Thai and Vinh Phu are localities which have satisfactorily conducted the sanitary and prophylactic movement and which are capable of completing the "three sanitary and prophylactic works" on a provincial scale.

Though efforts have been made to carry out sanitation and prevent diseases to protect [the people's] health, the environment and working places in many areas have been polluted in recent years; communicable diseases have been prevalent and epidemics have had the potential to develop, thus exerting some [bad] influence on production and the people's health.

In pursuance of the "Health for Everyone by the Year 2000 Program" launched by the World Health Organization, the Ministry of Public Health holds that it will be necessary in the forthcoming years to concentrate efforts to satisfactorily carry out the task of preventing and controlling infectious and parasitic diseases. A Committee for the Control of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases with the Minister of Public Health as chairman has been set up by the public health sector to implement the following seven specific programs: Environment sanitation; control of all kinds of diarrheas; malaria eradication; plague control; control of hemorrhagic fever and type-B Japanese encephalitis; extensive immunizations and control of acute infectious respiratory diseases. These programs will be considered national and many of them have been receiving international aid.

ZAMBIA

BRIEFS

ANTI-MALARIA CAMPAIGN--Ndola Urban district council is to embark on an anti-malaria campaign in residential areas in a bid to combat the current outbreak of the disease. Council social secretary Mr Peter Changala said in Ndola that the exercise is due to start next month. An order of required chemicals has been pressed from a Lusaka company and the consignment was expected to arrive "any time." [Text] [Lusaka SUNDAY TIMES in English 26 Feb 84 p 1]

CSO: 5400/109

BRIEFS

RAT PLAGUE--A definite and distinct rat plague is currently in existence in Antigua. Amazingly enough, the Health Department and the ALP Government in general turns both a blind eye and a deaf ear to the problem. In the meantime, the problem worsens. A new hybrid of rats seems to have evolved in the country. People report seeing rats as large, and even larger than cats. Beside robbing the country of expensive food material and other vital substance, rats have been known to be carriers of deadly diseases included among them is the dreaded disease of LEPTOSPIROSIS. The problem calls for a massive EXTERMINATION CAMPAIGN launched and sustained by our Health Department. Householders and the private sector must be drawn into the campaign eventually, but the campaign must be launched by the Health Department. Government institutions, mainly Holberton Hospital, the Harbour, and Central Marketing Corporation, are among places famous for rat infestation. The Health Department is supposed to have a Pest Control Unit. This is hardly functional since money to buy the chemicals for use by the men, is frequently not available. For weeks and months the men have remained under-utilised and virtually idle, because of total absence of chemicals for them to do their work. While the ALP Government lingers and fails to supply money for controlling rats and other pests, the Antigua public is forced to pay the dreadful price of a plague of rats and other pests. The problem calls for immediate corrective action on the part of the ALP Government. [Text] [St Johns THE STANDARD in English 25 Feb 84 p 6]

CSO: 5400/7546

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS SWINE FEVER PRECAUTIONS

The Hague ANP NEWS BULLETIN in English 2 Mar 84 pp 4-5

[Text] The Hague, March 2--State Secretary for Agriculture Ad Ploeg declared a ban on the transport of pigs and compulsory inoculation against swine fever in an area of Gelderland province yesterday to prevent a spread of the disease.

The agriculture ministry said the area affected fell roughly within the triangle linking the cities of Apeldoorn, Deventer and Arnhem.

A transport ban has also been imposed in the Twente region and compulsory inoculation against swine fever could soon follow, the ministry said.

An agriculture ministry spokesman said that by the end of February 46 cases of swine fever had been confirmed this year in the Netherlands.

Apart from the areas already mentioned, swine fever has also been confirmed in parts of Noord-Brabant and Zuid-Holland provinces.

Last Year's Cases

The ministry spokesman said there were 160 cases of swine fever in the Netherlands last year. The ministry had hoped to have the disease under control by the end of the year, but in December there were ten new cases, he said.

If swine fever is detected at a farm all pigs must be destroyed. The government compensates farmers with half the current market price for infected animals and the full price for uninfected animals.

Following the 46 cases of the disease this year some 22,000 animals have been slaughtered. The government can reclaim half of the costs from the European Community.

An estimate of the costs caused by swine fever this year is not available. But the agriculture ministry said that the disease cost the government 30 million guilders last year.

CSO: 5400/2521

SPREAD OF CATTLE PLAGUE REPORTED

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic, No 786, 18 Jan 84 pp 50-52

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mansur: "Rinderpest Is Devastating Our Livestock; Cattle Are Dying Left and Right"]

[Text] AL-YAMAMAH has often emphasized the need for quarantine pens in the kingdom's ports to isolate the enormous quantities of livestock and cattle entering the kingdom from various countries. Customarily, and in accordance with regulations, livestock entering the kingdom must remain in quarantine for 21 days so that they can be examined and shown to be free of contagious diseases. AL-YAMAMAH's call for making quarantine pens in the ports mandatory is echoed by livestock officials and veterinarians who regard it as the only practical solution for avoiding the spread of dangerous infectious diseases among livestock and cattle throughout all the cities of the kingdom. These diseases threaten to annihilate our livestock. Unfortunately, however, this has not received any interest from the concerned agencies, and the situation has continued to progress as it has in the past, in a primitive manner. This makes us feel that the kingdom is sure to become an area infected with cattle diseases if the situation continues as it is. Since all of this has a strong impact on the health of the citizens, as well as a direct impact on livestock and economic resources, AL-YAMAMAH is raising the issue again by reporting the tragedy that came to light on Wednesday 1 Rabi' al-Thani 1404 AH when rinderpest spread among a large number of cattle in Riyadh, and then spread to al-Dammam and al-Qatif. In Jiddah the disease is nothing new. It has been there continually, most recently three months ago when a merchant there lost 5,000 head of cattle as a result of the spread of this plague.

On 1 Rabi' al-Thani 1404 AH officials in the Riyadh slaughterhouse became suspicious about some cattle brought there by certain merchants. After being slaughtered, samples of these cattle were taken by the Agricultural Research Center. The diagnosis of rinderpest was confirmed in the laboratory. Then some necessary measures were taken to isolate the healthy and the sick animals. The concerned agencies formed various committees in a belated attempt to confront and check the disease. In addition, several veterinarians were assigned to visit the city's wholesale merchants to immunize the healthy cattle and disinfect the pens with the appropriate disinfectants.

Dr Ibrahim Rajab, a municipal veterinarian in Riyadh, said: "We are now aiming for the following:

- "1. To cure the cattle
- "2. Give vaccinations
- "3. Disinfect the pens
- "4. Teach cattle owners how to prevent diseases
- "5. To make sure the dead animals are buried hygienically, by spreading quicklime over the site to prevent the spread of the disease."

Ibrahim Rajab said the following about this disease:

"It is a serious infectious gastric disease which spreads quickly among cattle and water buffalo. It is a viral disease for which there is no cure. All that can be done is vaccinate against the disease with the disease virus. The afflicted animals get a fever and die, which means that their meat is not fit for human consumption. Therefore the diseased and healthy cattle must be isolated from each other. The cattle are then vaccinated in the pens of the butchers. They are kept isolated and are not transported or slaughtered in the official slaughterhouse or the national slaughterhouse and their meat is not sold fresh. These measures are followed in such cases throughout the world."

These cattle were imported into the kingdom through the port of Jiddah by a cattle and trading company called Nasir al-Mukayrish. They came from two countries--Holland and Ireland.

The Solution

Dr Nash'at Mustafa Muhammad, a veterinarian with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, said that the solution requires quarantine pens to be established in the ports, and the necessary vaccinations must be given. As far as we know, the exporting countries are free from this plague, and the cattle are stricken with it after they reach the kingdom. This means that the plague is spreading here.

The situation of this serious plague becomes even clearer. We interviewed veterinarian Nr Nabil Muhammad al-Zaftawi, who said the following:

"It is clear that the cattle were exposed to the disease in the kingdom. It can be assumed that they arrived in good condition because the exporting countries do not have this plague.

"Riverpest is a severe threat to our livestock resources. It is an infectious gastric disease and causes the death of a great number of

cattle, as is currently happening. In general, the stricken cattle become feverish, the blood becomes incomplete, and it therefore becomes dangerous for humans to eat the meat."

Dr Nabil added: "Another disease, hoof and mouth disease, is also spreading among cattle and water buffalo here. This disease makes the meat of any cattle a source of contagion for humans. It even makes being near the animals a source of contagion for humans inasmuch as hoof and mouth disease produces symptoms on the mouth, tongue and feet, and there is salivary discharge which makes it easy for the contagion to spread to humans. Milk taken from stricken cows is extremely dangerous to humans, and especially to children and infants."

How do we stem this plague?

Dr. Nabil al-Zaftawi said: "The following temporary measures were taken after the disease had spread:

"1. A veterinary quarantine was imposed on Riyadh and the entry or departure of live cattle was forbidden until further notice.

"2. Slaughtering of cattle was forbidden in the new and national slaughterhouses, and their sale in the markets was forbidden.

"3. Veterinary quarantine was imposed on the pens of the butchers which currently contain live cattle, and the entry or departure of animals was forbidden.

4. Stricken cattle have been isolated, and the necessary hygienic measures have been taken in burying the dead cattle.

5. Healthy and stricken animals have been vaccinated against rinderpest and hoof and mouth disease.

"Permanent solutions which we must continually work to achieve are the following:

"1. All cattle arriving from all over the world must have been vaccinated against rinderpest and hoof and mouth disease or the veterinary bureau will quarantine them at the country's ports and immediately vaccinate against these diseases. They will attach metal or plastic numbers to distinguish the cattle which have been vaccinated.

"2. The importation of cattle from countries afflicted with these diseases must be forbidden.

"3. Veterinary quarantines must be established in the ports to isolate all arriving animals for a 21-day period before they are allowed to continue on. After this period the cattle will be turned over to their owners.

"4. The ports should be equipped with a veterinary laboratory and veterinary personnel to examine the live animals and carry out the necessary (cytology) tests during the quarantine period.

"5. The personnel who administer vaccinations in the ports must be provided with whatever they require to handle the quantities of animals which arrive daily."

The yards are primitive.

It is important for the municipality to build special yards for the butchers and cattle owners which are subject to sanitary supervision and conform to the required technical specifications. The existing pens and yards in Riyadh are worse than primitive, and do not have even minimum sanitary conditions. This situation helps the diseases originate and spread among the animals.

Dr Nabil mentioned another important point. There must be more cooperation among the agricultural departments and the municipalities in coordinating joint projects. For example, the concerned agencies in the Ministry of Agriculture should inform the municipalities of the occurrence of any gastric disease among live animals so that the municipality can take the necessary precautions to prevent the animals from being slaughtered in the slaughterhouses and to prevent their meat from being sold in the markets. It must be noted that the disease has broken out in several cities in the kingdom, and a comprehensive preventive project must be undertaken quickly, and it must gain the interest and concern of officials so that this serious disease can be checked.

At this point the opinion of one of the butchers who have suffered losses must be heard. He is Mr 'Abdallah ibn Samih, who said:

"On 27 Rabi' al-Awwal 1404 AH I bought 450 head of cattle from a wholesaler who had bought them in Jiddah through the Saudi Cattle Sales and Transport Company and from another dealer, Nasir al-Mukayrish. The cattle ranged in value from 2,150 and 2,500 riyals per head. After we had sent several of the cattle to slaughter in the slaughterhouse they were confiscated. We were informed that they were suffering from rinderpest. So far I have lost 60 head of the cattle I had originally bought. Our business was halted by the municipality, although I am committed to provide fresh beef to most of the hospitals in Riyadh, the university, al-Hubaysh and the central markets. I am not to blame for what happened, but I have suffered material loss. The guilty parties are the cattle company and the dealer because they fail to comply with statutory regulations when they import cattle."

Ibn Asmih, the butcher, added: "The butchers in Riyadh have previously requested suitable and clean yards and have obtained approval for them. However, the municipality has so far done nothing about this matter. We would like the municipality to cooperate with us in setting up suitable

quarantine pens so that we can prevent these diseases. We are in an uncomfortable situation. The municipality has authorized us to relocate, but it has not provided us with an appropriate site. Furthermore, after the rinderpest had spread, no representative or veterinarian visited us--no one from the municipality, the Ministry of Agriculture, or from the the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs--to ascertain the condition of the cattle and determine whether they were healthy."

Inasmuch as AL-YAMAMAH has been in continual contact with the concerned agencies since the outbreak of this plague, we offer the following observations to summarize the situation:

1. Cooperation and coordination are completely lacking among the concerned agencies. The evidence for this is that this plague spread in several days. Cattle importing is devoid of stringent monitoring and supervision.
2. There is another example of negligence in this connection. After a veterinary quarantine had been set up at the pens of the butchers, with the entry and departure of cattle forbidden, during the period [of quarantine] a dealer sent some cattle to al-Kharj, and as a result the plague was transmitted there.
3. We expected that the Saudi Cattle Sales and Transport Company would set an example in its adherence to sanitary procedures and its imposition of the required quarantine on the cattle it receives. Unfortunately, however, it has violated this, and has conducted itself in the same way as those dealers who are concerned only with their profits and do not care about the public interest--the homeland and its citizens--although the company is still in its initial stages of operation. The offense committed by the company was acknowledged by one of its officers at a meeting held at the Ministry of Agriculture on Saturday, 11 Rabi' al-Thani 1404 AH which was attended by AL-YAMAMAH.
4. It should be noted that cattle can be imported with no difficulty at all by any individual who desires material profits only, without observing sanitary regulations, although it is assumed that cattle importing is subject to the rules and regulations by means of which the [present] situation could be overcome, keeping the cattle healthy and preventing the spread of plagues among them.
5. There is evident negligence and lack of concern on the part of the dealers. This is due to the absence of stringent penalties and punishment for violators and the weak supervision over their activities, which emboldens them to perpetrate major offenses in the unsupervised atmosphere.
6. The fact is that we do not seek solutions and do not commit ourselves to the rules which must be observed except after a problem arises. If there had been sound solutions and continuous observation [of rules]

the plague would not have spread in this dangerous manner. What makes the situation even more dangerous is that Jiddah has become a region afflicted with rinderpest.

7. The fact that there is no veterinary clinic near the slaughterhouse and the butchers' pens means that the veterinary bureau in the Ministry of Agriculture is performing its work on paper only.

8. There is no doubt whatsoever that the basis of the problem is the absence of quarantine pens in the ports.

Now that we have a clear picture of the situation, the temporary solutions that are currently being undertaken will not stem the plague. The problem will continue. Permanent solutions based on sound scientific principles must be undertaken with continuous supervision and monitoring, and tighter cooperation among the concerned agencies.

When the situation concerns the safety of the citizens and our economic resources we are forced to confront this plague in an effective manner. I assert that the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the municipalities must understand the gravity of what we mean when we say that our cities have become afflicted with rinderpest.

9123

CSO: 5400/4514

YUGOSLAVIA

BRIEFS

RABID FOXES IN MARIBOR--Maribor, 26 March--All the hunting clubs in the communes of Maribor have been arranging fox drives every weekend. They have already caught 15 rabid foxes this year. That is an unusually high number, the highest that personnel at the Maribor veterinary station can recall. The most foxes have been reported in Puscava, Lovrenc, Janezi Gori, Selnica ob Dravi and Smolnik. At the veterinary center, the large number of rabid foxes is attributed to the unusually severe winter. Veterinary center personnel also state that we must accustom ourselves to living with rabies, because nowhere in the world has the origin of this disease been properly established. [Text] [Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 27 Mar 84 p 7]

CSO: 5400/3006

CHOMA DISTRICT CORRIDOR DISEASE DEATHS INCREASING

Veterinary Officer's Statement

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 27 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] An average of 50 heads of cattle are dying in Choma weekly following an outbreak of the corridor disease which has affected thousands of animals in the area.

Choma district veterinary officer Dr Abdou Awadalla yesterday confirmed the outbreak of the disease.

Dr Awadalla said the situation was worsening as the department had no drugs to combat the disease.

He said the disease, which originated from Monze district had killed thousands of cattle in Chief Mapanza over the past two years. "It is now spreading fast in chiefs Macha, Singani and Hamaundu areas."

He said because of lack of funds to build more dipping tanks and a shortage of drugs to utilise the dip tanks in the district, his department was finding difficulties to save the animals.

Dr Awadalla praised Choma district governor Mr Crosby Chibanga for assisting the department with the supply of drugs, which though not adequate were welcome.

Meanwhile, Simaubi ward chairman, Mr Enock Mweetwa said villagers in Chief Mapanza had lost thousands of their livestock since the outbreak of the disease two years ago.

He told Choma district political secretary Mr Alfred Lumbwe who visited the area on Saturday that at one village 40 animals died from the disease last

Villagers had built six dip tanks on self-help basis but only a few were operating because there was no water to fill the tanks while those with water had no drugs.--ZANA/ZIS

Prevention Measures

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 28 Feb 84 p 5

[Text] Drugs worth more than K8,000 have been dispatched to Choma district to fight the outbreak of corridor disease which has been killing about 50 head of cattle a week.

Choma veterinary officer Dr Abdou Awadalla confirmed that 60 tins of tritex and lime worth K8,262 had been sent by the Southern Province corridor disease control unit in Monze.

Meanwhile, the veterinary department has stepped up spraying of cattle in Southern Province to ensure livestock transported to Lusaka and the Copperbelt are free of the disease.

Dr Awadalla said following the suspension of livestock movement in the province, the department was spraying all animals already bought and destined for other areas before allowing them to be transported.

And Minister of Agriculture and Water Development General Kingsley Chinkuli has directed Dr Awadalla and his staff to immediately visit the areas.

Gen Chinkuli said at the moment reports were "confusing," making it difficult for the ministry to plan a vigorous strategy to combat the disease breakout.

It was not only corridor disease in some areas of Choma district. There was trypanosomiasis which also killed cattle, particularly in Chief Macha's area.

Private companies were being assisted to obtain foreign exchange for importing samorin. The ministry had obtained K35,000 in foreign exchange for buying the drug.--ZANA/TIMES reporter.

CSO: 5400/109

BRIEFS

NETHERLANDS TSETSE FLY ERADICATION--The Dutch government has allocated K60,000 for the eradication of the tsetse fly in Sesheke district, Minister of State for Agriculture and Water Development Mr Daniel Munkombwe said in Parliament yesterday. The aid would be in the form of drugs and vaccines. He said this in reply to a question from Sesheke MP Mr Lawrence Sinvani who wanted to know what measures Government was taking to eradicate tsetse fly in his district. [Excerpt] [Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 29 Feb 84 p 5]

CSO: 5400/109

BORDER CONTROLS NEED TIGHTENING TO HALT DISEASE PROBLEMS

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 15 Mar 84 p 6

[Article by Ronald Watts]

[Text] THERE are definite signs that within the next few years Zambia will have added insect pest and disease problems to those that already occur.

While there is no absolute prevention for these invasions we can at least try to reduce them or slow them down.

Vigilance can also help to ensure that when an invasion does occur action can be taken before the new disease or pest has become widely established.

Above all the public need to be informed and convinced of the risks they take when they carry any plant material from one place to another.

One recent example is the cassava mealybug which is gradually spreading all over Africa.

In Nigeria it is reported to be causing such large yield reductions that people's diets are affected. Evidence is available that people are switching from cassava to bread and as a result are increasing the already large import bill.

There is even a shortage of cassava planting material, particularly in dry areas.

According to Mr Simwambana of the Luapula Regional Research Station cassava mealybug originates from South America. It was first observed in Zaire in 1973 and in Nigeria in 1979.

It spread to Zambia from Zaire in 1981. In this case border checks would not have been effective in controlling spread as there is so much controlled movement.

Now that the insect is here we can do little more than try to restrict the movement of unprocessed cassava round the country.

If cassava planting material is moved it should be immersed in insecticide before hand.

Cassava mealybug is now established in Luapula, Copperbelt and North Western Provinces. In Luapula all districts have outbreaks although in Kawambwa only Mbereshi seems badly affected.

Identified

The mealybugs have also been identified in Chingola district of the Copperbelt.

The main control that is being recommended is early planting at the beginning of the rains. However farmers should also dip their cuttings in insecticide before planting.

Resistant cultivars are being developed and could be used when they are available.

However, because of its method of propagation--by stem cuttings--it is difficult and expensive to make them quickly available throughout the country.

The other major potential threat to Zambia is the greater grain borer which is reported to have entered Tanzania in a consignment of food aid maize supplied by the United States.

There could be no clearer demonstration of the dangers of dependence on food aid from other countries.

This insect is highly destructive to maize stored at village level and is more difficult to control than existing storage pests.

The main threat to Zambia is through border posts along the Tanzanian border and possible later along the Malawi border.

Prevent

Movement of the pest along parts of the border which are densely populated on both sides will be difficult to prevent.

People who bring in maize through the main border posts are often travelling deep into the interior. This is the most serious risk as uncontrolled movement could quickly spread the pest to many provinces.

A large proportion of people returning from other countries consider the avoidance of payment on possibly dutable items to be "fair game."

This may reduce the revenue account by a few Kwacha but can be considered a very minor offence compared with the illegal introduction of a small packet of tobacco seed, for instance, sent through the post without an import permit, which may be carrying a plant pathogen likely to cost the country possibly millions of Kwacha over the years.

These costs include both the loss of production caused by the disease and the control measures such as the spraying of fungicides.

To quote an example, tobacco anthracnose disease was first recorded in Zambia early in 1953, though some growers had noted similar symptoms on tobacco as far back as 1949.

At that time, anthracnose was known to occur only in Germany, and to be seed borne. The inference is that in some way seed was introduced into this country from an outside source when carrying spores of this disease.

The following growing season anthracnose first appeared in the Nyabira district of Zimbabwe. Again, seed must somehow have been involved.

Tomato bacterial canker was found in Zambia over ten years ago. This is another disease which must have been introduced initially on the seed, and for which phytosanitary regulations have always existed.

These require that all tomato seed imported into the country must have been obtained from plants inspected during growth and found free from bacterial canker.

Import regulations cannot be taken as a 100 per cent safeguard. They can however, be an effective precautionary measure if they receive full public support backed up by rigorous inspections at border posts.

There are regulations which define the plant materials which may not be imported under any circumstances, and those which may be brought into the country providing an import permit has been obtained before hand.

Conditions

The import permit details the conditions with which the exporting country must comply before the plants are exported and these conditions vary with the plant concerned and the country of origin.

Where an importer fails to obtain a plant import permit or where the phytosanitary certificate accompanying the plant materials does not fulfill the requirements of this permit, goods are liable to confiscation or destruction, the cost of this operating being charged to the importer.

It will thus be appreciated that trouble can be saved all round, if the importer is conversant with the regulation applicable to the type of plant materials he wishes to import into Zambia.

This information is contained in the Government regulations. Answers to specific queries may be addressed to the Chief Plant Protection Officer, Private Bag 7, Chilanga (Tel. 278655), to whom application for import permits should also be made. It should be borne in mind that certain commodities e.g. citrus fruit, honey etc. also require an agricultural permit, and livestock and certain production a veterinary certificate before importation.

END OF

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20 APRIL 1984